

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Resolution No. 2007-13

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FREE, NATIONWIDE, WIRELESS
BROADBAND ACCESS THAT WILL HELP BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

WHEREAS, ubiquitous access to reliable broadband internet service is essential for national economies to grow and compete in the information economy; and

WHEREAS, for many Alaskans, broadband Internet access is either too costly or simply unavailable, which has contributed to a digital divide that separates Alaskans in their access to information and, consequently, in their ability to participate in the information economy and in civic affairs; and

WHEREAS, the United States has fallen further behind other countries with regard to the availability of broadband Internet access; and

WHEREAS, protecting children from exposure to indecent material on the Internet continues to be a serious challenge; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for reliable communication among first responders, command centers, and municipal officials every day and in response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, a nationwide, free, wireless broadband network that is safe for children, by employing network-level filtering of indecent material would benefit the American public in many ways. For example, such a network would:

- Help to bridge the digital divide and give more Americans the opportunity to participate in the information economy and in civic affairs; and
- Help American businesses, and in particular, small businesses and entrepreneurs compete in the United States and around the world by increasing access to information, encouraging innovation, expanding marketing opportunities and improving prospects for growth; and
- Protect children from indecent material on the Internet while allowing for increased freedom to use the Internet as an educational tool in school, at home, and in home schools; and
- Improve the ability of first responders, command centers and municipal officials to respond to emergencies, thereby enhancing public safety; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Alaska would benefit from such a wireless broadband network.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports efforts to provide free, nationwide, wireless broadband access that will help bridge the digital divide that separates many Americans and that would help all Americans compete for jobs in the information economy, ensure a safe environment and prosperous future for our children, and make us global leaders in providing our citizenry access to the Internet and all its benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska Legislature and the United States government to consider all alternatives that would allow for the delivery of free, nationwide, wireless broadband access to its citizens.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE on the 17th day of November 2006.

Signed: _____

Tim Bourcy, President
Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____